

What is claimed is:

1. A composition for binding and thereby inactivating a mycotoxin in an animal feed, comprising a <sup>modified</sup> yeast cell wall extract and a mineral clay.
2. The composition of claim 1, wherein the yeast cell wall is extracted from a yeast selected from the group consisting of *Saccharomyces*, *Candida*, *Kluyveromyces*, *Torulaspora* or a combination thereof.
3. The composition of claim 2, wherein the yeast cell wall extract is extracted from a *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* yeast.
4. The composition of claim 1, wherein the yeast cell wall is modified prior to extraction.
5. The composition of claim 4, wherein the yeast cell wall is modified by an alcohol shocking of the yeast thereby increasing the mycotoxin-binding capacity of the yeast cell wall.
6. The composition of claim 5, wherein the yeast cell wall is modified by exposing the yeast to a growth environment comprising from between about 5% and about 20% alcohol.
7. The composition of claim 6, wherein the yeast cell wall is modified by exposing the yeast to a growth environment comprising from between

about 10% and about 12% alcohol.

8. The composition of claim 1, wherein the mineral clay is selected from the group consisting of a zeolite, a bentonite, an aluminosilicate or mixtures thereof.
9. The composition of claim 8, wherein the mineral clay is an aluminosilicate clay.
10. The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition comprises from between about 1% to about 10% of the mineral clay and from between about 90% to about 99% of the yeast cell wall extract.
- ✓ 11. The composition of claim 10, wherein the composition of the invention comprises from between about 2% to about 4% of the mineral clay, and from between about 96% to about 98% of the yeast cell wall extract.
12. The composition of claim 1, formulated for feeding to an animal selected from the group consisting of avian, bovine, porcine, equine, ovine, and caprine species.
13. The composition of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the composition is bound to a mycotoxin.
14. The composition of claim 13, wherein the mycotoxin is selected from the group consisting of Aflatoxin, Zearalenone, Vomitoxin, Fumonisin, T2

toxin, and Ochratoxin.

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15. ~~An animal feed comprised of a composition comprised of a yeast cell wall extract and a mineral clay in an amount effective to bind and thereby inactivate a mycotoxin present in the animal feed.~~

16. The animal feed of claim 15, wherein the effective amount of the composition comprises from between about 0.0125% to between about 4% by weight of the feed.

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5

17. ~~A method for improving the nutritional quality of an animal feed containing a mycotoxin and for improving the subsequent health and performance of an animal consuming the feed, comprising feeding to an animal an effective amount of a composition comprised of a yeast cell wall extract and a mineral clay thereby binding and inactivating the mycotoxin in the animal feed.~~
18. The method of claim 17, wherein the effective amount of the composition comprises from between about 0.0125% to between about 4% by weight of the animal's daily feed ration.
19. The method of claim 17, wherein the animal is selected from the group consisting of avian, bovine, porcine, equine, ovine, and caprine species.
20. The method of claim 17, wherein the mycotoxin is selected from the group consisting of Aflatoxin, Zearalenone, Vomitoxin, Fumonisin, T2

20

toxin, and Ochratoxin.

21. The method of claim 17, wherein the composition is admixed with the animal feed prior to feeding.

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21